

Weakley County Board of Education



Monitoring:	Descriptor Term: Homeless Students	Descriptor Code: 6.503	Issued Date: 10/21/2014
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2 In order to ensure that homeless students have equal access to the same free appropriate public
3 education as provided to other students, the following shall apply:¹
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5 Homeless students are individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence
6 and include the following:
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8 1. Students who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic
9 hardship or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds
10 due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or
11 transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement.
12
13 2. Students who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not
14 designated for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
15
16 3. Students who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard
17 housing, bus or train stations or similar settings.
18
19 4. Migratory students who meet one of the above described circumstances.
20

21 ENROLLMENT/PLACEMENT

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23 The district will consider the best interests of the student with parental involvement in
24 determining whether the student should be enrolled in the school of origin or the school that non-
25 homeless students who lives in the attendance area in which the homeless student is actually
26 living are eligible to attend. To the extent feasible, and in accordance with the student's best
27 interest, the student should continue his/her education in the school of origin, except when
28 contrary to the wishes of the parent or guardian. If the student is unaccompanied by a parent or
29 guardian, the homeless coordinator will consider the views of the student in deciding where the
30 student shall be educated. The choice regarding placement shall be made regardless of whether
31 the student lives with the homeless parents or has been temporarily placed elsewhere.
32

33 The school selected shall immediately enroll the homeless student, even if the student is unable
34 to produce records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records,
35 immunization records, proof of residency or other documentation. However, the district may
36 require a parent or guardian of the student to submit contact information.
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38 The district shall provide a written explanation, including a statement regarding the right to
39 appeal, to the homeless student's parent/guardian, or to the homeless student if unaccompanied,

Legal Reference:

¹ McKinney-Vento Education Assistance Improvements
Act of 2001 Subtitle B §§ 721-725

1 if the district sends the student to a school other than the school of origin ("*school of origin*" is
2 *defined as the school that the student attended when permanently housed or the school in which*
3 *the student was last enrolled*) or other than a school requested by the parent or guardian.

4
5 If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment in a school, the student shall be
6 immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the
7 dispute. The student or parent/guardian shall be referred to the district homeless coordinator,
8 who will carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible.

9 10 **SERVICES**

11
12 Each homeless student shall be provided services comparable to services offered to other
13 students in the district including, but not limited to, transportation services; educational services
14 for which the student meets eligibility criteria, such as educational programs for disadvantaged
15 students, students with disabilities and gifted and talented students; vocational programs and
16 technical education; school meals programs; preschool programs; before- and after-school care
17 programs and programs for students with limited English proficiency. Homeless students will not
18 be segregated in a separate school or in a separate program within a school based on the student's
19 status as homeless.

20 21 **TRANSPORTATION**

22
23 In the event that it is in the best interest of the homeless student to attend the school of origin,
24 transportation to and from school shall be provided at the request of the parent/guardian or, in the
25 case of an unaccompanied student, the homeless coordinator. If the student's temporary housing
26 is outside the district of the school of origin, the Weakley County will work with the school of
27 origin to agree on a method to apportion the responsibility and costs for transporting the student.
28 If an agreement cannot be reached, the costs will be shared equally.

29 30 **RECORDS**

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32 Any records ordinarily kept by the school, including immunization records, academic records,
33 birth certificates, guardianship records and evaluations for special services or programs of each
34 homeless child or youth shall be maintained so that appropriate services may be given the
35 student, so that necessary referrals can be made and so that records may be transferred in a
36 timely fashion when a homeless student enters a new school district. Copies of records shall be
37 made available upon request to students or parents in accordance with the Family Educational
38 Rights and Privacy Act.

39 40 **COORDINATOR**

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42 The Board designates the following individual to act as the district's homeless coordinator:

43
44 Homeless Coordinator
45 Weakley County Schools
46 8319 Hwy. 22, Dresden, TN

1 (731) 364-2247

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3 The district shall inform school personnel, service providers and advocates working with
4 homeless families of the duties of the district homeless coordinator. The homeless coordinator
5 shall ensure that:

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7 1. Homeless students are identified by school personnel and through coordination activities
8 with other entities and agencies.

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10 2. Homeless students enroll in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in, schools
11 in the district.

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13 3. Homeless families and students receive educational services for which such families and
14 students are eligible, including Head Start, Even Start and preschool programs
15 administered by the district and referrals to health care services, dental services, mental
16 health services and other appropriate services.

17

18 4. The parents or guardians of homeless students are informed of the educational and related
19 opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities
20 to participate in the education of their children.

21

22 5. Public notice of the educational rights of homeless students is disseminated where such
23 students receive services, such as schools, family shelters and soup kitchens.

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25 6. Enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with law.

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27 7. The parent or guardian of a homeless student and any unaccompanied youth is fully
28 informed of all transportation services, including transportation to the school of origin
29 and is assisted in accessing transportation to the school selected.

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31 8. Unaccompanied youths will be assisted in placement or enrollment decisions, their views
32 will be considered and will be provided notice of the right to appeal.

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34 9. Students who need to obtain immunizations, or immunization or medical records, will
35 receive assistance.

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Cross References:

3.400 Student Transportation

4.502 Family Engagement

4.603 Promotion and Retention

6.203 School Admissions

6.504 Migrant Students